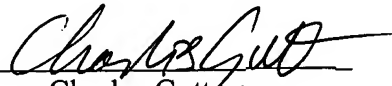


REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of March 23, 2004. Please proceed to examine this application on the basis of the "Amendment to the claims" section submitted herein and on the basis of the remarks presented in the Amendment filed on or about February 23, 2004.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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By 
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Date: March 31, 2004

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